WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH.
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NEW RADNOR RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

RADNORSHIRE

# JOINT ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR, 1960

MINISTRY OF H
LIBRA

## MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

## AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1960

## INCLUDING PARISH THEY REPRESENT

J. E. Hughes (Chairman) - LLANDEGLEY

J. H. Evans (Vice Chairman) - EVENJOBB

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. L. Price | - | COLVA | A. B. Roberts | - | LLANFIHANGEL |
| J. T. Edwards | - | EDNOL | S. K. Williams | - | MICHAELCHURCH |
| R. Price | - | GLADESTRY | T. P. Lloyd | - | NEWCHURCH |
| C. T. Davies | - | GLASCWM | J. Lloyd | - | NEW RADNOR |
| Mrs. I. Harley | - | GLASCWM | J. G. Taft | - | OLD RADNOR |
| B.D.R. Ball | - | HARPTON | E. L. Mills | - | TREWERN |
| V.T. Jones | - | KINNERTON | P. S. Hughes | - | WALTON |

Clerk & Chief Financial Officer - A. J. Blatchford

Medical Officer of Health - R. H. Jobson

Surveyor & Public Health Inspector - L. Allen, M.A.P.H.I.,

To the Chairman and Members of the New Radnor R.D. Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

In presenting this joint Annual Report, I wish to thank Mr. L. Allen for his contribution towards it and for his co-operation in the past year.

Richard H. Jobson
Medical Officer of Health

## 1. STATISTICS OF THE AREA

| | |
|---|---|
| Area (in acres) ..... | 51,892 |
| Number of inhabited houses (according to Rate Book 1959) ..... | 626 |
| Population ..... | 2,170 |
| Rateable Value (as at 31.12.59) ..... | 11,086 |
| Sum represented by a 1d Rate ..... | £41 |

## 2. VITAL STATISTICS

| | Total | Male | Female |
|---|---|---|---|
| (a) Live Births (legitimate) ..... | 35 | 15 | 20 |
| " " (illegitimate) ..... | - | - | - |
| TOTALS | 35 | 15 | 20 |
| (b) Still Births (legitimate) ..... | 1 | - | 1 |
| " " (illegitimate) ..... | - | - | - |
| TOTALS | 1 | - | 1 |

(c) Infant Mortality

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| (i) Death of infants under 1 year | - | - | - |
| (ii) " " " " 4 weeks | - | - | - |
| (iii) " " " " 1 week | - | - | - |
| (iv) " from puerperal causes | - | - | - |

(d) Causes of death - Statistics provided by the Registrar General

| | Total | Male | Female |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Tuberculosis, respiratory | 1 | - | 1 |
| 17. Vascular lesions of nervous system | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 18. Coronary disease angina | 2 | 2 | - |
| 19. Hypertension with heart disease | 1 | 1 | - |
| 20. Other heart disease | 3 | - | 3 |
| 21. " circulatory disease | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 24. Bronchitis | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 28. Nephritis and nephrosis | 1 | 1 | - |
| | 14 | 7 | 7 |

## 3. INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

One case of Scarlet Fever was reported in the district, but this was of the mild, almost abortive type, common nowadays. Whilst several cases were reported in the surrounding districts our own district remained comparatively free.

## 4. TUBERCULOSIS

The County Medical Officer deals with all aspects of this disease.

## 5. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

The County Council is the responsible Authority for the execution of this Act.

### (a) Laboratory Facilities

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford and the Public Analyst's Laboratory at Carmarthen.

### (b) Ambulance Services

The County Ambulance Headquarters are at the County Hospital Llandrindod Wells. This ambulance has to be used even when cases are being sent out of the County, principally to the County Hospital, Hereford.

### (c) Dental Care of Mothers and Young Children

These facilities are provided by the County Council.

### (d) Child Welfare

The Child Welfare Centre is at Walton, and is attended monthly by the District Medical Officer.

The following portion of the report has been compiled by the Surveyor and Public Health Inspector :-

## 6. WATER SUPPLIES

### General

Samples of both public and private water supplies were taken and submitted for analysis. Where necessary work was carried out to improve these supplies and to maintain their purity.

Even though the season was fairly wet, arrangements had to be made for notices asking people to be saving in the use of water, and prohibiting car-washing and watering of gardens. Quite a number of isolated dwellings had to carry water at certain times of the year.

Enquiries were received as to whether an improved supply of water could be made available to certain areas in the district, and it was agreed that these enquiries should be considered when the comprehensive scheme was commenced.

### Llandegley and Penybont Scheme

Members of the Council in conjunction with Rhayader R.D.C. made an inspection of the new pumping station and reservoir connected with this scheme. This was followed by an invitation from the Chairman of the New Radnor R.D.C. to tea at Penybont. It is of the greatest importance for Councillors to attend these tours of inspection, and to see for themselves how money, for which they are responsible, is being spent, and to realise the higher standard of living afforded to consumers receiving a satisfactory supply of piped water into their dwellings.

Some discolouration occurred to this supply following the failure of pumps (due to an electrical fault), reservoir becoming dry and sediment flowing into mains.

6. WATER SUPPLIES (Cont'd)

New Radnor (Extended) Scheme

Detailed drawings of this scheme were received and submitted to the Ministry, but further delay was created whilst details of treatment plant were being drawn up, but every effort was made to expedite this matter. Negotiations for the acquisition of land for reservoirs, filter house and intake chamber were being proceeded with.

Franksbridge Scheme

Completed drawings were received in respect of this scheme and submitted direct to the Ministry, and authority was given to invite tenders. A contract was eventually placed with the lowest tenderer and this scheme was commenced. No appreciable work was carried out to this contract up to the end of the year mainly due to the very inclement weather, and to the Contractors inability to obtain and retain a suitable labour force.

Newchurch Scheme

A report was received regarding proposed scheme for this small village, estimated to cost over £5,000. Nearly half of the cost of this schem was for providing water to the farm house on land where proposed source of supply was situated. The Council instructed their consultants to consider an alternative source of supply, with a view to cutting down on the cost of the scheme.

7. DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

3 small sewage disposal plants are in operation in the district dealing mainly with sewage from Council housing estates. Remainder of district is drained into septic tank/soakaways.

8. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The collection of household refuse is carried out by contract. A monthly collection of refuse is available for all properties situated beside classified roads or willing to place their refuse out beside these roads.

Disposal is by means of controlled tipping on 3 separate sites. Negotiations are being made for a further disposal site to be commenced in Llandegley parish.

Following the placing of litter bins on the roadsides by the Radnorshire County Council, some discussion had ensued following my Council's refusal to accept responsibility for emptying these bins. It would be necessary to empty some of these bins more than twice a week and this would place an excessive burden on the district. My Council felt that educating tourists to take home their rubbish would be more beneficial than placing out these bins, which themselves created an eyesore to the country-side.

9. RODENT CONTROL

No operator is employed by my Council, although they agreed to continue supplying ready mixed baits for dwelling houses that are infested with rats or mice. No major infestations were reported or discovered in the district. Any farm infestations can be dealt with by a private contractor operating in the district.

## 10. HOUSING

### General

The housing survey revealed that one-seventh of the houses in the district are seriously substandard and of the remainder, over one half are without some of the five essential ameneties that could be installed with the aid of a Standard Grant. In spite of this, I can report, once again, that the general condition of houses in the district has been improved during the past year.

### Slum Clearance.

A number of houses included above, that are seriously substandard, are empty, and some have been empty for a number of years, being inaccessible from good roads. 29 of these houses were dealt with in terms of section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957.

### Council Houses

Total number of Council Houses in the district is 42. The Council already own some land in two villages where they could erect 2 pairs of houses, and they are still negotiating for the purchase of additional land in another village for housing purposes.

### Improvement Grants - Discretionary

Only one application was received for a discretionary improvement grant. This application included a two storey extension to a house which already contained 4 bedrooms and two living rooms. Upon this application being deferred for further consideration, the applicant eventually decided to withdraw same.

| | 1957 | 1958 | 1959 | 1960 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| No. of applications approved | 7 | 5 | 5 | NIL |
| Total amount of grants | £1437 | £1542 | £1520 | NIL |

### Standard

Four applications were received for standard improvement grants and they were all approved.

### Hill Farming Improvement Schemes for Farmhouses

A number of farm houses are being modernised under these schemes, and satisfactory co-operation is being maintained between my Local Authority and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food representatives, in this connection.

## 11. NUISANCE

### Emmission of dust from Stone Quarry plant

A complaint was received from one household regarding the emmission of excessive dust from stone quarry plant in the district. Several enquiries were made regarding this complaint, and the Ministry's Inspector of Quarries stated that, following an inspection of this plant he was satisfied that the minimum of dust was being created. The Council did agree to give priority to the rehousing of occupants of this household, and in the meantime the quarry operators have agreed to "water down" the dust during excessive dry weather.

## 12. FOOD PREMISES AND FOOD INSPECTION

### (a) Food Premises

These premises are summerized as follows :-

| | |
|---|---|
| Butcher's Shop | 1 |
| Bakery | 1 |
| Grocery Stores | 7 |
| Public Houses | 8 |

Total number of inspection carried out is 34.

Alterations and improvements have been carried out to two of the public houses, primarily to afford increased washing and sanitary facilities.

### (b) Section 14, Food & Drugs Act, 1938

| | |
|---|---|
| No. of premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream ..... | 8 |
| No. of premises registered for the preparation and sale of sausages ..... | 1 |
| Total number of inspections ..... | 18 |

During the year one additional property was registered for the storage and sale of ice cream. Only prepacked ice cream is being sold throughout the district.

### (c) Meat Inspection

There are no licensed slaughter-houses in the district. All meat retailed from butchers shops or vans coming into the district, is slaughtered outside the district and inspected before it leaves the slaughterhouse.

### (d) Milk Supply

All dairy premises in the district are occupied by producer/wholesaler and come under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture. Any retailers have their dairy premises outside the district.

## 13. FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

| Premises | Number on Register | Number of Inspections |
|---|---|---|
| Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are enforced by L.A. | 4 | 8 |
| Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A. | 11 | 22 |
| Other premises or workshops | 1 | 2 |
| TOTAL | 16 | 32 |